

Breeding Bird Survey Summary Report

Bayfield County Forest Unit 7 with Parts of 2, 3 & 6



(Kimball, 2007)



(Wells, 2007)

Project Initiated by:
Bayfield Co. Forestry Dept. - Washburn, WI



(Niyo 2006)



(Studebaker 2010)

Survey Conducted by and Report Prepared by:
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June 11-July 1, 2010

Introduction and Methods:

I conducted 281 Breeding Bird Survey unlimited point counts, and 17 nightjar point counts in the Bayfield Co. Forest's Unit 7, most of 6 and parts of 2 and 3 from June 11 to July 1, 2010.

Twenty eight of these points were added during the field season following the detection of Kirtland's Warblers (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) in the Barnes area. A total of 11 land classifications in various stages of succession were surveyed. These units are actively managed by a variety of methods including selective and clear cut timber harvest, tree planting, and mechanical brush removal. The goals of the surveys were to develop a greater understanding of the density and distribution of birds in the county, understand how various management practices impact breeding birds, and identify areas of critical habitat for rare species within the county's forests.

Breeding Bird Survey methods generally followed the protocol established by Howe et al (1997). Points were predetermined by the Bayfield County Forestry Department and located by GPS (Garmin 76CSX) and compass. Surveys started at first light and ideally extended to approximately 10:00. However, due to the remote nature of many of this year's points, we continued surveying along a leg until we reached its conclusion. Occasionally, this took us to times past 11:00. Surveys were not conducted when winds were >12mph and affected bird detection or when there was precipitation. I recorded all birds seen and heard at each point during the 10 minute count period, noted the minute (1-10) each was first detected, and estimated the distance to each bird (25, 50 100 or >100m). Basic habitat metrics including tree and shrub species present, percent canopy cover, percent conifer over and understory and percent deciduous shrub understory were noted. Temperature, wind speed and sky condition were also recorded.

Nightjar surveys followed the methods establish by the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Initiative (Paulios, 2008). Survey points were established along a predetermined route at 1 road mile intervals. I listened for six minutes for nightjars at each site. Other nocturnal calling birds like owls, cuckoos, etc. were also noted. If birds were detected, I documented each minute(s) they were calling separately. Site description, location, number of houses, background noise, passing cars, wind, and sky conditions, and up to three dominant habitat descriptors (open, pine forest, hardwood forest, marsh/wetland and water) were also recorded. Surveys started after sunset and once the moon was above the horizon and at least ½ full. Surveys ended after the moon set or before sunrise. All data was subsequently entered into an Excel spreadsheet for later analysis.

Results and Species Summaries:

I documented a total of 4,249 birds during the BBS representing 89 species for a mean of 15.12 birds/plot (Table 1). Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*), Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*), and Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*), were the most abundant species making up 12.45%, 11.08%, 4.59% and 4.59% of the breeding bird community respectively (Figure 1). Ten other species made up at least 2% of birds surveyed. They included American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*), Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*), Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*), Eastern Wood-Pee-wee (*Contopus virens*), Black-throated Green Warblers (*Dendroica virens*), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) and White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*).

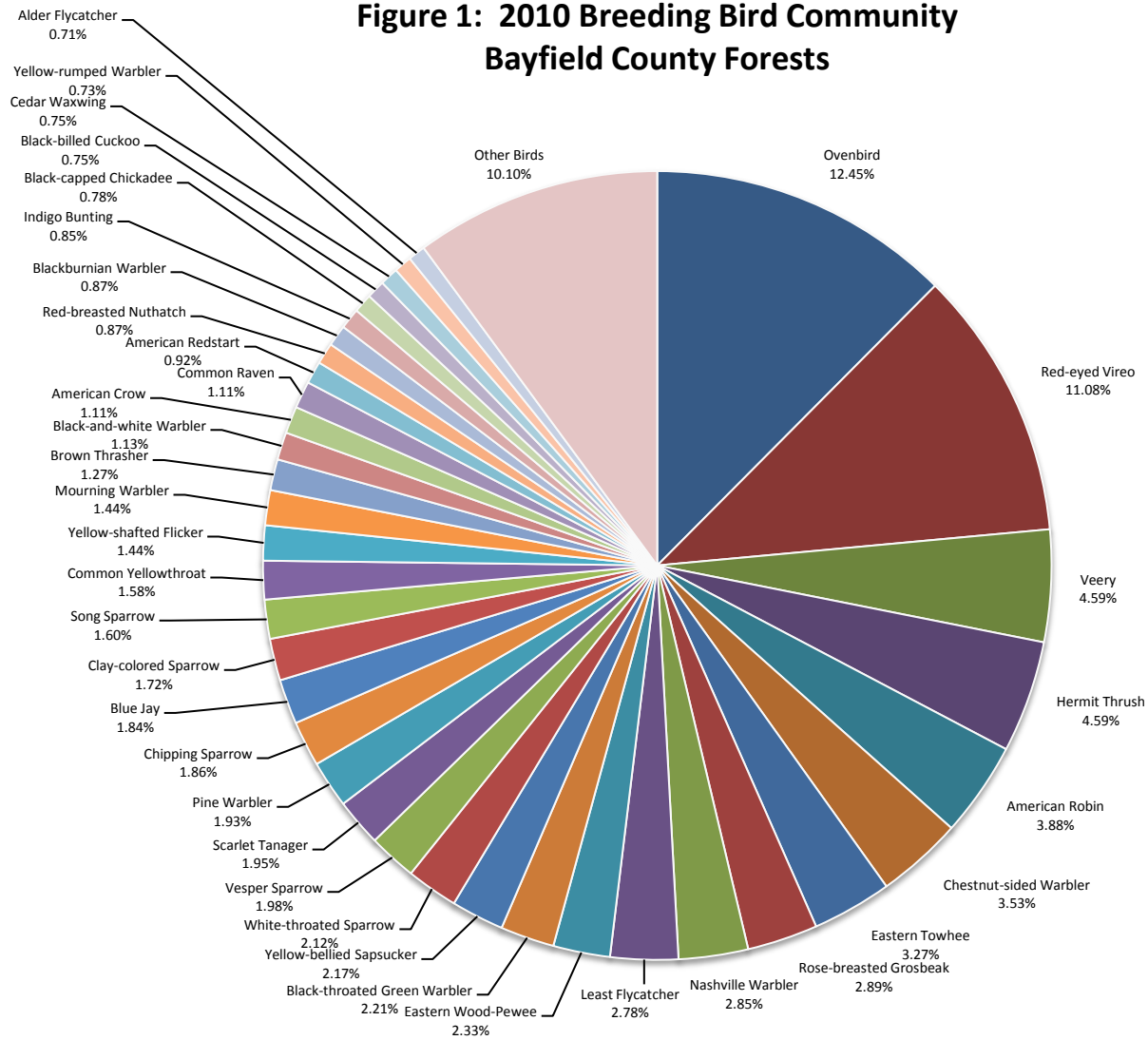
**Table 1: Breeding Bird Community
Forestry Units 2, 3, 6 and 7 Bayfield County
June 11-July 1, 2010**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Total Number	Mean # Per Site	% of Community
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	529	1.883	12.45%
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	471	1.676	11.08%
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	195	0.694	4.59%
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	195	0.694	4.59%
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	165	0.587	3.88%
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	150	0.534	3.53%
Eastern (Rufous-sided) Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	139	0.495	3.27%
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	123	0.438	2.89%
Nashville Warbler	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	121	0.431	2.85%
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	118	0.420	2.78%
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	99	0.352	2.33%
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	94	0.335	2.21%
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	92	0.327	2.17%
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	90	0.320	2.12%
Vesper Sparrow	<i>Poocetes gramineus</i>	84	0.299	1.98%
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	83	0.295	1.95%
Pine Warbler	<i>Dendroica pinus</i>	82	0.292	1.93%
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	79	0.281	1.86%
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	78	0.278	1.84%
Clay-colored Sparrow	<i>Spizella pallida</i>	73	0.260	1.72%
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	68	0.242	1.60%
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	67	0.238	1.58%
Yellow-shafted Flicker	<i>Colaptes a. auratus</i>	61	0.217	1.44%
Mourning Warbler	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>	61	0.217	1.44%
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	54	0.192	1.27%
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	48	0.171	1.13%
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	47	0.167	1.11%
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	47	0.167	1.11%
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	39	0.139	0.92%
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	37	0.132	0.87%
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	37	0.132	0.87%
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	36	0.128	0.85%
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	33	0.117	0.78%
Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	32	0.114	0.75%
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	32	0.114	0.75%
Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	31	0.110	0.73%
Alder Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	30	0.107	0.71%
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	29	0.103	0.68%
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	25	0.089	0.59%
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	22	0.078	0.52%
American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>	19	0.068	0.45%
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	18	0.064	0.42%
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	17	0.060	0.40%
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	16	0.057	0.38%

**Table 1 (cont'): Breeding Bird Community
Forestry Units 2, 3, 6 and 7 Bayfield County
June 11-July 1, 2010**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Total Number	Mean # Per Site	% of Community
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	16	0.057	0.38%
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	15	0.053	0.35%
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	14	0.050	0.33%
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	14	0.050	0.33%
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	13	0.046	0.31%
Blue Headed Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	12	0.043	0.28%
White-winged Crossbill	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	12	0.043	0.28%
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	11	0.039	0.26%
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	11	0.039	0.26%
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	10	0.036	0.24%
Canada Warbler	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	10	0.036	0.24%
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	9	0.032	0.21%
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia Sialis</i>	9	0.032	0.21%
Golden-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	9	0.032	0.21%
Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	9	0.032	0.21%
Purple Finch	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	9	0.032	0.21%
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	7	0.025	0.16%
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	6	0.021	0.14%
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	6	0.021	0.14%
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	6	0.021	0.14%
Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	6	0.021	0.14%
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>	6	0.021	0.14%
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	5	0.018	0.12%
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	5	0.018	0.12%
Northern Parula	<i>Parula americana</i>	5	0.018	0.12%
Palm Warbler	<i>Dendroica Palmarum</i>	5	0.018	0.12%
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	5	0.018	0.12%
Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	4	0.014	0.09%
Connecticut Warbler	<i>Oporornis agilis</i>	4	0.014	0.09%
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	<i>Juncus hyemalis</i>	4	0.014	0.09%
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	3	0.011	0.07%
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	3	0.011	0.07%
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	2	0.007	0.05%
Whip-poor-will	<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>	2	0.007	0.05%
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	2	0.007	0.05%
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	2	0.007	0.05%
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	2	0.007	0.05%
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	2	0.007	0.05%
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	2	0.007	0.05%
Sharp-tailed grouse	<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus</i>	1	0.004	0.02%
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	1	0.004	0.02%
Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	1	0.004	0.02%
Red-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	1	0.004	0.02%
Boreal Chickadee?	<i>Poecile hudsonicus</i>	1	0.004	0.02%
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	1	0.004	0.02%

**Figure 1: 2010 Breeding Bird Community
Bayfield County Forests**



The 2010 field season was extremely challenging. Rainy weather and strong winds resulted in surveys being terminated early or being cancelled all together on June 11, 15, 23, 25, 26, 27 and July 2-5. Even when it wasn't raining, the forests were often soaked from overnight storms and this seemed to dampen singing. Ultimately, this loss of time resulted in only 281 surveys being conducted despite having been expected to get to 350 points. Despite visiting 69 fewer sites, the 89 species detected in 2010 was up from 82 in 2009. This included Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolnii*), White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) and a possible Boreal Chickadee (*Poecile hudsonicus*), three species not detected in previous years. All of these species were located in the Lowland Brush/Swamp Conifer areas of the Ounce/Totagatic River Bottoms east of HWY 27 in areas dominated by thick Sphagnum Moss, Black Spruce (*Picea mariana*) and Tamarack (*Larix laricina*).

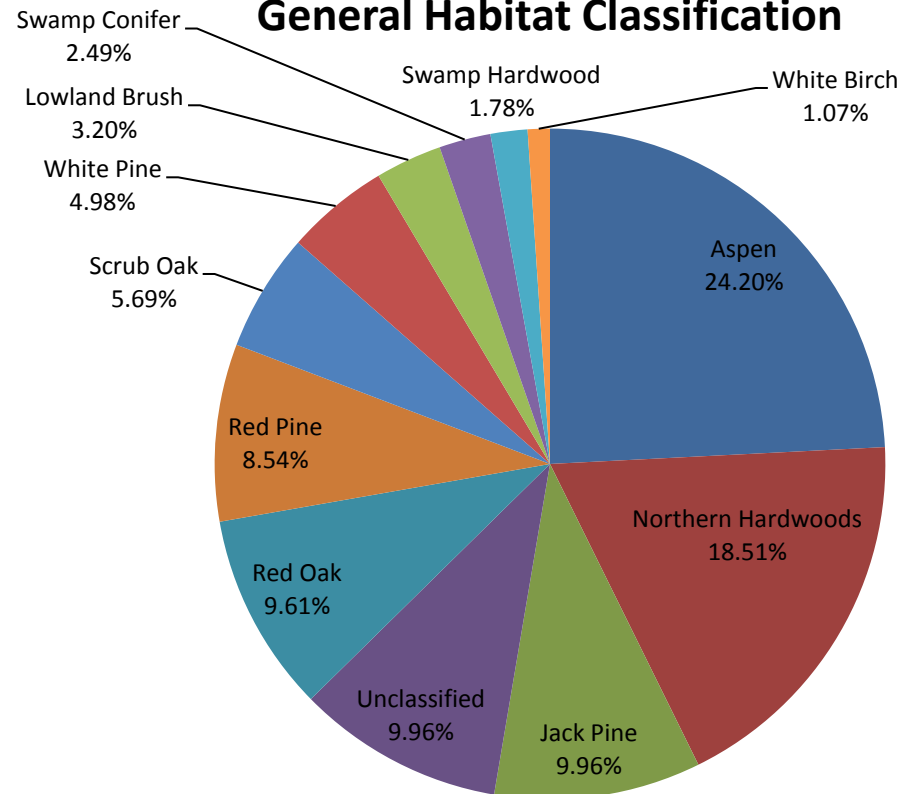
We did not locate any evidence of Kirtland's Warblers despite exhaustive efforts in the areas identified as holding birds as recently as June 14th. We started the mornings of June 18 and 19 with a 40+ minute passive listening session on the roads adjacent to where the birds were reported. We also quietly and slowly walked transects from survey point to survey point within the area. As in 2008, it seems likely the birds are in the area, but have not had successful nesting as they are abandoning territory early in the breeding season.

During my only night of surveys, I located just two nightjars both of which were Whip-poor-wills (*Caprimulgus vociferous*). A lone Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) was also detected. Other than June 20/21st, we did not have suitable conditions to conduct surveys as it was either cloudy or windy. A decision was made on June 25th to terminate Nightjar Surveys until 2011 due to these factors.

The two routes I sampled through Forestry Units 5 and 6 ran through mostly uninhabited areas with little artificial light or noise pollution. Whip-poor-wills detected during the routes as well as during morning BBS counts were restricted to open forest, farm field and clear cut habitats. None of these habitat types were especially common in the Cable area where we conducted this year's surveys. This, coupled with the late survey window, likely explained our failure to locate many birds.

Survey points were distributed across 11 general habitat types (Figure 2). They included Aspen, Jack Pine, Lowland Brush, Northern Hardwoods, Northern Pin "Scrub" Oak, Red Oak, Red Pine, Swamp Conifers, Swamp Hardwoods, White Birch, and White Pine. The 28 Kirtland's Warbler points were unclassified although they were primarily in Jack Pine, Red Pine and Grassland areas.

**Figure 2: 2010 BBS Survey Points
General Habitat Classification**



Summaries based on personal observations and field notes taken at and between points.

Alder Flycatcher ALFL 4661

I found Alder Flycatchers occupying territories in just about any open “brush” habitat; especially near water and in young aspen clear cuts that had brush clusters.

American Crow AMCO 4880

Crows weren’t abundant, but they were present just about anywhere there were large openings.

American Goldfinch AMGO 5290

Goldfinches were regularly encountered foraging and flying over just about any open habitat.

American Redstart AMRE 6870

American Redstarts were regularly encountered in middle-aged aspen with canopy gaps that created a vertical component. They were absent from the driest sites, and seemed to prefer >50% hazel understory. Common associates included Veery, Chestnut-sided, Nashville and Mourning Warblers, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

American Robin AMRO 7610

Robins were found in almost any habitat if there were shrubs for them to nest in. They were especially common in open mixed forests that had at least some Balsam Fir in the understory.

American Woodcock AMWO 2280 – SGCN/Special Concern

Woodcock were abundant in the HWY 27 corridor along logging trails through 30-40+ft young aspen stands on moist sites. During the Nightjar survey, we heard peenting at almost every stop along HWY 27.

Barred Owl BADO 3680

We heard only two Barred Owls – one during the Nightjar Survey and one during an early morning BBS.

Black-and-white Warbler BAWW 6360

I observed Black-and Whites on a regular basis in early-successional, dry deciduous and mixed forests. They were typically located with American Redstarts, Chestnut-sided, Nashville and Black-throated Green Warblers and Veerys. BAWWs seemed to better tolerate dry/poorer quality regenerating sites of oak grubs mixed with young aspen than other warblers. They are one of the few species that seems to establish in Large-tooth Aspen suckers/saplings following a clear cut. We also found them in Lowland Brush areas in tree “islands” in the “sea” of brush.

Black-billed Cuckoo BBCU 3880 – SGCN/Special Concern

Outside of the Kirtland Warbler sites, we only heard five birds the entire month. Within the KA areas, the number detected/reported is likely 2-3times the number of actual birds as sites were very close to each other, and birds were singing and moving constantly.

Blackburnian Warbler BLBW 6620

Blackburnians occurred in a variety of conifer areas, but they were only reliably found in areas that had canopied/supercanopied White Pine trees with a deciduous understory and a well developed brush component. Males were often observed singing from the upper canopy of White Pines. Black-throated Green and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Ovenbirds, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were common associates.

Black-capped Chickadee BCCH 7350

A common resident found in just about any forest habitat. They had finished their nesting season, and families were occasionally observed foraging together.

Black-throated Blue Warbler BTBW 6540 SGCN/Special Concern

We heard four BTBW on point and only two additional birds interpoint. Birds were restricted to the specific microhabitat we identified last year – Sugar Maples, gaps, slope and a variable canopy layer. Areas fitting this description were rare in this year's surveys, but, when I found them, each held a bird. Unlike GWWA where there seems to be large tracts of unoccupied suitable habitat, BTBW seem to be saturated in all available territory. Despite this, they seem unwilling to occupy adjoining habitat that is missing one of the aforementioned variables. Chestnut-sided, and Mourning Warblers were again reliable associates.

Black-throated Green Warbler BTNW 6670

Black-throated Green Warblers were common anywhere there were Sugar Maple and Sugar Maple with mixed conifers. By July 1st, I was identifying birds primarily by their distinct chip scold as most singing had ended.

Blue-headed (Solitary) Vireo BHVI 6290

I found Blue-headed to be uncommon to rare in mixed forests with conifers in the overstory, but fairly common in mature Red Pine plantations where they occurred with Yellow-rumped Warblers.

Blue Jay BLJA 4770

Blue Jays thrive just about anywhere there are some mature trees. They were most often encountered in open oak and maple forests.

Boreal Chickadee BOCH 7400

A single scold was the only evidence I have of this species, but the Black Spruce habitat with Lincoln's Sparrows and Palm Warblers was right. It was definitely not a Kinglet, and I am 80% sure it wasn't a BCCH. Unfortunately, I was unsuccessful in tracking the bird down for visual confirmation after the survey.

Brewer's Blackbird BRBL 5100

Brewer's Blackbird was seen foraging in recent clear cuts and in dry open areas.

Broad-winged Hawk BWHA 3430

I found Broad-wings in a variety of habitats that offered open understory/open edges for them to hunt. They were especially common along old logging roads through maturing forest.

Brown Creeper BRCR 7260

A few Brown Creepers were encountered in old over mature Jack Pine plantations.

Brown Thrasher BRTH 7050 – SGCN/Special Concern

Thrashers were abundant in young pine plantations with trees <15ft tall or where there were significant open areas between trees. They were especially common in the Kirtland's Warbler Sites along with Vesper and Field Sparrows and Eastern Towhees.

Brown-headed Cowbird BHCO 4950

Cowbirds were relatively common in open country areas. We also noted numbers of birds in Red Pine plantations – presumably looking for nests to parasitize.

Canada Warbler CAWA 6860 – SGCN/Special Concern

We only found a few handfuls of Canada's. They normally occurred in brushy gaps in overstory forests with some slope in areas that were either moist-wet or near water.

Cedar Waxwing CEDW 6190

Cedar Waxwings were regularly observed in open and semi-open areas while foraging.

Chestnut-sided Warbler CSWA 6590

Where there were young aspen groves with soft edges there were Chestnut-sided Warblers. They also occurred in clear and selective cut areas with brush patches, and in mature aspen and Sugar Maple forests with a brush understory as long as the canopy wasn't completely closed such as along logging roads or in windthrow areas. Common associates included Mourning, Black-and-white, and Black-throated Blue Warblers, and American Redstarts.

Chipping Sparrow CHSP 5600

Chipping sparrows occurred in a variety of stands containing conifers. We found several males in midstory Red Pine plantations and in areas with scattered Balsam fir. The similarities in song with Pine Warblers are likely not a coincidence as the two seem to be actively competing for nearly the same territory – Pines mid-overstory and Chippings mid-understory. When found together, the two songs seem to be even more similar.

Clay-colored Sparrow CCSP 5610

Clay-colored birds were abundant in the Kirtland Sites. They especially like young pines <15ft. in dry open habitats where they were frequently found with Brown Thrashers and other sparrow species.

Common Grackle COGR 5110

Grackles were most often seen as flyovers in areas with pine and lowland brush.

Common Nighthawk CONI 4200

A few Nighthawks were heard in open areas associated with pines or in very recent clear cuts. They seem to be fussier about habitat selection than their most common associate, Whip-poor-wills.

Common Raven CORA 4860

Ravens were regularly heard flying over plots in open country.

Common Yellowthroat COYE 6810

I found Yellowthroats in moist to wet alder and aspen openings, and in willow clusters in drier locations. They were often found with Song and White-throated Sparrows, Golden-winged Warblers, and Alder Flycatchers.

Connecticut Warbler CONW 6780 – SGCN/Special Concern

Connecticut Warblers were heard in mature and over-mature closed canopy Jack Pine forests along the periphery of the Kirtland's Warbler sites.

Eastern Bluebird EABL 7660

I found bluebirds in open country sites where there was no canopy cover and little ground cover. Most birds were in the Kirtland's Warbler areas.

Eastern Kingbird EAKI 4440

Kingbirds were associated with open country where they had dead or dying trees to serve as sallying perches. Most birds were in the Kirtland's Warbler areas or over recent clearcuts.

Eastern Phoebe EAPH4560

Two birds were seen in open country areas.

Eastern Wood-Pewee EAWP 4610

Pewees were common in most closed canopy forests if there was an open understory and dead branches to serve as sallying perches. They were a regular occupant of mature Red Oak forests and mature Red Pine plantations. Least Flycatchers were their most reliable associate along with Hermit Thrushes, and Scarlet Tanagers.

Evening Grosbeak EVGR 5140

Evening Grosbeaks were common in the Kirtland's Warbler sites where they inhabited mature Red Pine plantations and were frequently observed flying from one forest to another. I also observed several small flocks foraging from oak grubs. Outside of this area, a few birds were observed over spruce bogs.

Field Sparrow FISP 5630

I found a few Field Sparrows on the driest most open grassland sites I surveyed as well as occasionally in young Jack Pine stands and clearcuts where they were associated with Vesper Sparrows, Indigo Buntings, Brown Thrashers, Eastern Bluebirds and Eastern Towhees.

Golden-crowned Kinglet GCKI 7480

I found fewer Kinglets than expected considering the numbers of swamp conifer areas I visited. I saw a few birds interpoint in White and Black Spruce stands.

Golden-winged Warbler GWWA 6420 – SGCN/Special Concern

Golden-wings were again confined to areas with active aspen sucker growth following clear cut or aspen forest edges that had a soft, heterogeneous edge rather than a sharp drop off to nothing or non-aspen brush. These habitats were rare in the survey area. I also heard a few in alders patches around beaver ponds. Associates included Chestnut-sided, Mourning and Black-and-White Warblers, American Redstarts, White-throated Sparrows, Indigo Buntings and Gray Catbirds.

Gray Catbird GRCA 7040

Catbirds were found in young regenerating aspen clear cuts, and in lowland brush areas with no coniferous component. Associates included Common Yellowthroats, Golden-winged, Chestnut-sided and Mourning Warblers and White-throated, Song and Swamp Sparrows.

Great-crested Flycatcher GCFL 4520

Great-crested were much more common in the Cable area than on the Bayfield Peninsula, but still a fairly rare bird. I heard them in closed canopy areas that had open understory. Although found in a variety of habitats, they were definitely more common in mesic to wet areas as opposed to Least Flycatchers and Eastern Wood Pewees that seemed to prefer drier forests.

Hairy Woodpecker HAWO 3930

I detected a number of Hairy Woodpeckers in a variety of habitats, but I noticed more in areas that had an oak component.

Hermit Thrush HETH 7590

A thrush of dry forests, the highly detectable Hermit Thrush was found throughout in any closed or nearly closed canopy forests. Common associates included Veery, Ovenbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

House Wren HOWR 7210

I heard a few House Wrens in the Kirtland's Warbler areas. I am guessing that these cavity nesters are utilizing Jack Pine snags for nesting as they seemed most common along edges where there were dead pines in the adjacent forest.

Indigo Bunting INBU 5980

Indigo Buntings occurred at scattered locations in generally dry habitat on the edges of open aspen areas. They were often found in shrubs just off logging roads along with American Redstarts, Mourning, Golden-winged and Chestnut-sided Warblers.

Least Flycatcher LEFL 4670 – SGCN/Special Concern.

Least Flycatcher required mature forests that had open understory for sallying perches. They were common to abundant in closed canopy oak forests with an open understory and occurred sporadically in Red Pine plantations with open understories. Common associates included Eastern Wood-Pee-wee, Scarlet Tanager, and Hermit Thrush.

Lincoln's Sparrow – LISP 5830

I found large numbers of Lincoln's Sparrows in the Black Spruce Bogs along the Cole Creek, Ounce and Totagatic River Bottoms. They were frequently seen singing from brush clusters among the spruce. Palm Warblers and White-throated Sparrows were their most common associates.

Magnolia Warbler 6570

I found a single Magnolia Warbler in a White Spruce thicket on the edge of a large sedge meadow along the Totagatic River.

Mourning Dove MODO 3160

Mourning Doves were common in open pine forest areas and on logging roads in drier aspen area.

Mourning Warbler MOWA 6790

The "slashing or edge warbler", Mourning colonized areas that have under gone several years of regrowth, and have a well developed deciduous shrub/ground cover layer adjacent to deciduous or mixed forests. Although they don't require aspen suckers at the edges, they seem to prefer it. They were also relatively common on moist Red Oak edges while being absent on drier sites. This early successional species was often found with Chestnut-sided, Nashville, and Golden-winged Warblers, Indigo Buntings, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and White-throated Sparrows.

Nashville Warbler NAWA 6450 – Special Concern

From Black Spruce/Tamarack bogs, to Red Pine plantations of all ages, Nashvilles are conifer generalists that seem to occur in just about any habitat that had some openings and brush associated with it. I found several birds doing an imperfect mimic of Chestnut-sided Warblers. It was an odd song that I had never heard before and seemed to be a “regional dialect” in an area of habitat overlap with these two species. Even after I got visual confirmation, I was left shaking my head at the plastic song abilities of warblers.

Northern Parula NOPA 6480 – Special Concern

Northern Parulas were never common, but they were regularly encountered in the limited habitat areas with some White Cedar, White Spruce and White Pine mixed in with a deciduous understory. They were often found with Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Canada and Nashville Warblers, Hermit Thrush and American Robins.

Northern Waterthrush NOWA 6750

I heard a few waterthrushes in lowland deciduous areas – especially those with an Green or Black Ash component.

Ovenbird OVEN 6740

The ubiquitous generalist of closed canopy forests, Ovenbirds were found in any habitat that had a roof over their heads. Sugar Maple monocultures and dry Quaking Aspen stands with no understory often had only a handful of individuals/species, but Ovenbirds were almost always present even in these low productivity habitats. They were almost always accompanied by Red-eyed Vireos and Veerys – in fact on the previous two mentioned habitats, these three were often the only birds present.

Palm Warblers WPAW 6720

Palms were abundant in Black Spruce bogs, and I also heard a few in Jack Pine and Red Pine stands that had ericaceous understories. The site that had Kirtland’s Warblers reported from it had a number of Palm Warblers in the area. In bog areas, Palms were associated with Lincoln’s and White-throated Sparrows.

Pileated Woodpecker PIWO 4050

I found a few widely scattered Pileated Woodpeckers in a variety of closed canopy forest habitats; especially those that had overmature Quaking Aspen that were crashing.

Pine Warbler PIWA 6710

Surrounding habitat does not seem to matter for Pine Warblers. As long as there were two-four mature/super canopy Red or White Pines, there would be a Pine Warbler. Associates included Chipping Sparrows, Yellow-rumped, Blackburnian and Black-throated Green Warblers, Blue-headed Vireos, Purple Finches and Hermit Thrushes. I noted a couple of aggressive interactions between Chipping Sparrows and Pine Warblers followed by intense singing with each doing a good job of “meeting in the middle” with their songs. Had I not had visuals of these interactions, I would have been left to guess who was singing.

Purple Finch PUFI 5170

I found Purple Finches singing in the canopy and super canopy in a variety of pine/swamp conifer/swamp hardwood areas.

Red-bellied Woodpecker RBWO 4090

I heard a single Red-bellied Woodpecker in a Scrub Oak forest near the edge of a steep escarpment that dropped off to a stream. It was the only bird I heard anywhere during the survey.

Red-breasted Nuthatch RBNU 7280

I heard Red-breasted Nuthatches in most mature mixed-conifer forests. They were often found with Black-and-white and Nashville Warblers, and Hermit Thrushes.

Red Crossbill RECR 5210 - SGCN

I have never seen more crossbills in my life than during this year's survey. I heard some almost every day flying from Red Pine plantation to Red Pine plantation and observed numbers of them feeding on cones. Apparently the area had a good cone crop and the birds were taking advantage. They were especially abundant in the Iron River area and around the Kirtland's Warbler sites.

Red-eyed Vireo REVI 6240

Next to Ovenbirds, Red-eyes were the most common bird in the study. They reached their highest densities in areas of canopied Quaking Aspen, but were also found in Red Oak and mixed forests. They were almost always found with Ovenbirds, Veerys, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Scarlet Tanagers.

Red-tailed Hawk RTHA 3370

A single individual landed in a tree above me during a survey.

Red-winged Blackbird BWBL 4980

We found a few Red-wings around beaver ponds and along streams in Alder thicket openings. They were also seen as flyovers in a number of plots.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak RBGR 5950

I found Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in just about any forested habitat. The males are such prolific singers, and are so detectable in general that their numbers in the overall community is probably skewed, but there's no question they are common in mixed forests with at least some aspen or birch component. While the males were often out singing in open areas, I never saw females except in more closed canopy forests. Many females were detected by alarm call, and pairs were often seen together interpoint; especially when I was laboring through brush and making a racket.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird RTHI 4280

I again found RTHums "borrowing" sap lunches from Yellow-bellied Sapsucker wells in open Sugar Maple forests. Outside of human areas where there are feeding stations, these must be important food sources for the birds.

Ruffed Grouse RUGR 4150

Grouse were abundant in young aspen stands along with Woodcock in the HWY 27 area. We stumbled over hens with their chicks on a regular basis, and had several instances where families were directly on the point.

Rufous-sided (Eastern) Towhee RSTO (EATO) 5870

We found towhees in just about every dry, open sites that had oak grubs or some conifers <15ft. Brown Thrashers, Vesper, Clay-colored, Field and Song Sparrows were all common associates.

Scarlet Tanager SCTA 6080

I regularly encountered Scarlet Tanagers in dry open Red Oak/White Birch forests with limited understory as well as in open Sugar maple/Hemlock stands. They were normally absent from forests that had a strong pine component, or that were exclusively Quaking Aspen. Least Flycatchers, Hermit Thrushes, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Veerys, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos and Eastern Wood-Peepees were regularly associates.

Sharp-tailed Grouse STGR 0308

I heard one Sharp-tailed Grouse cackle while on point and flushed 5-6 other birds interpoint while in the Kirtland's Warbler areas.

Slate-colored Junco (Dark-eyed) SCJU 5670

Juncos were infrequently encountered in a variety of dry open habitats usually on the edge of mature conifer or mixed conifer forests or within young Jack Pine stands.

Song Sparrow SOSP 5810

Song Sparrows were common at the limited number of sites we surveyed with their preferred habitats of lowland brush, recent clear cuts and beaver pond openings. Scattered individuals were also located in willow clusters in open country. They were frequently found with White-throated and Vesper Sparrows, Common Yellowthroats, and Mourning and Chestnut-sided Warblers.

Swainson's Thrush SWTH 7580 Special Concern

Swainson's Thrush became increasingly rarer the further I got from the Bayfield Peninsula. I heard only a few in perfect moist forests that had a Balsam fir understory with a bit of slope. Common associates included Wood Thrush, Veery, and Black-throated Green Warblers.

Swamp Sparrow SWSP 5840

Swamp sparrows were found in lowland brush areas near beaver ponds along with Gray Catbirds, Common Yellowthroats, Song and White-throated Sparrows.

Tree Swallows TRES 6140

I observed a few Tree Swallows foraging over lowland brush areas. They were likely nesting in some dead birch snags near where they were observed.

Veery VEER 7560 – SGCN/Special Concern

I found Veerys at most closed canopy moist to wet deciduous forest points. They were most common in aspen dominated areas, but were also regularly encountered in oak forests and swamp conifer areas. They seemed to prefer sites that had little understory. Almost every site that had Ovenbirds and Red-eyed Vireos in numbers had Veerys as well. These three were often the only species found in 30-40ft young aspen monoculture.

Vesper Sparrow VESP 5400

Vesper Sparrows were abundant in open grasslands and recent clearcuts that had not had time for vegetation to reestablish. They were a dominant species in the Kirtland's Warbler sites along with Towhees, Thrashers, and Clay-colored and Field Sparrows.

Whip-poor-will WPWI 4170 – SGCN/Special Concern

Whip-poor-wills were restricted to open forest and clear cut habitats. Although we only detected a handful of birds, I would expect the population in the area east of HWY 27 will go up in the coming years following the large clear cuts on both County Forest and Plum Creek lands in the area.

White-breasted Nuthatch WBNU 7270

White-breasted Nuthatches replaced Red-breasted Nuthatches as I moved from mixed conifer to Red Oak forests. Although not common, I encountered White-breasteds on a regular basis in these stands.

White-throated Sparrow WTSP 5580

We found Poor Sam on a variety of edge habitats with moist to wet conditions. They were especially common in lowland areas near beaver ponds and in recent aspen clear cuts where they were associated with other early successional species like Chestnut-sided, Golden-winged, Mourning and Nashville Warblers and Common Yellowthroats. We also found numbers of them in Black Spruce Bogs along with Palm Warblers and Lincoln's Sparrows.

White-winged Crossbill WWCN 5220

A single male and a mixed flock of 11 individuals were seen in two separate flyovers.

Winter Wren WIWR 7220

Birds were present in most lowland conifer areas with closed canopy. They were especially common in areas with White cedar and moist Hemlock stands. Northern Parula, Blackburnian and Black-throated Green Warblers and Golden-crowned Kinglets were common associates.

Wood Thrush – SGCN/Special Concern

I found fewer Wood Thrushes than in 2009 perhaps because they don't occur in the drier oak or maple forests I encountered outside of the Peninsula. Thrushes definitely follow a habitat gradient from Hermits in the driest pine and mixed forests, Veeries in aspen and wet lowland forests, Woods in mesic closed canopy primarily deciduous mixed forests and Swainson's in moist closed canopy primarily coniferous mixed forests.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 4630 Special Concern

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were regularly encountered in open swamp conifer stands where they mixed with lowland brush and in monotypic Black Spruce. They were often found with White-throated and Lincoln's Sparrows, and Nashville and Yellow-rumped Warblers. We again found a few individuals in Red Pine plantations.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker YBSA 4020

I found sapsuckers in Sugar Maple, White Birch and Quaking Aspen forests. They were especially abundant in pure Sugar Maple stands with open understories. In these habitats, their high density led to frequent calling/drumming.

Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler MYWA 6550

"Butterbutts" are a mixed conifer generalists and I found them in any habitat that had White Pine overstories or a high percentage of other evergreens. They were also located in young (20ft+) as well as mature Red and Jack Pine plantations and Tamarack/Black Spruce Bogs. Common associates included Blackburnian, Pine, Black-throated Green and Nashville Warblers, and Blue-headed Vireos.

Yellow-shafted Flicker YSFL 4120

Flickers were observed in a variety of habitats. They were especially common in forested areas near clearings where they could forage for ants.

Yellow-throated Vireo YTVI 6280

I only found Yellow-throated Vireos in the more mesic Red Oak forests and a few Sugar Maple forests with a strong oak component. If there was water located near the point, it added to the likelihood of these birds holding territory. Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Red-eyed Vireos and Veery's were regular associates.

Yellow Warbler YWAR 6520

Yellow Warblers were common in dry upland sites with dense willow clusters and in wet lowland alder and willow thickets. Song Sparrows, Alder Flycatchers, and Common Yellowthroats were almost always associated with them.

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